

# Textual Metafunction in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital"

*by* Mirsa Umiyati

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**Submission date:** 24-Feb-2020 11:39AM (UTC+0700)

**Submission ID:** 1262837302

**File name:** 9..pdf (1.46M)

**Word count:** 3126

**Character count:** 17196



## International Journal of Systemic Functional Linguistics

Journal Homepage: <https://ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id/index.php/ijsl>

### Textual Metafunction in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital"

Mirsa Umiyati

Magister of Linguistic, Postgraduate Program, Universitas Warmadewa, Denpasar, Bali-Indonesia

Mirsa.umiati2@gmail.com

#### ABSTRACT

This research aimed to discover the realization of textual metafunction and to discover kinds of mood and theme types dominated in speech since the data itself was Donald Trump's speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel Capital". This research employed a qualitative research method and content analysis approach. The data was obtained from the trusted website and the data itself was analyzed by using Halliday's theory by considering the steps of data analysis proposed by Gay et al. As a result of the analysis, it was discovered that: (1) the realization of textual metafunction in Donald Trump's speech was applied. 84 clauses found in Donald Trump's speech, and each clause contained Theme and Rheme which carry the message told the listeners; (2) mood (theme in declarative clauses) were mostly dominated particularly unmarked theme, which had 44 clauses while marked theme 38 clauses. Otherwise, (theme in imperative clauses) were the lowest calculation, it was obtained 2 clauses from the total number of clauses. Meanwhile, (theme in interrogative clauses) was not found, yes or no as well as wh-question; theme types (ideational/topical theme was dominant), it was derived 57 clauses, the second was (textual theme), it was derived 25 clauses and the last was (interpersonal theme), it derived 2 clauses. To sum up, based on textual metafunction perspective, the speaker attempts to get the listeners' attention to focus on the message of what is being said, and giving many statements to tell the listeners his recognition that Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a form of grammatical which is part of a social semiotic approach to the language called Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Thus in this sense, there are two terms of Systemic Functional Grammar: Systemic refers to the view of language as a network of systems, or interrelated sets of options for making meaning, then Functional refers to the meaning of language. On the other hand, for SFL, a language is a system of meaning (Bloor & Bloor, 1998).

Considering the organization of language, in uttering something, the speaker should be a great communicator. It means that the speaker

should arrange their language well in order the listeners may understand the message of the speaker easily, but although the speaker has arranged their language well, and undoubtedly, the listeners still do not understand the speaker's message, and it finally causes the misunderstanding. At last, the listeners have a problem with the speaker because the listeners lack understanding on the message of what the speaker utters, for instance, on the speech of Donald Trump "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital". Through the media, the listeners got the information about Donald Trump's declaration "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel Capital", and definitely many reactions of people on Donald Trump's declaration emerged. Most people disagree with Donald

#### ARTICLE INFO

##### How To Cite:

Umiyati, M. (2019). Textual Metafunction in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital". *International Journal of Systemic Functional Linguistics*. 2(2). 55-60. Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22225/ijsl.2.2.1321.55-60>

##### Article History:

Received: 16-09-2019

Revised: 05-12-2019

Accepted: 12-12-2019

##### Keywords:

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG),  
Textual Metafunction,  
Theme and Rheme

Trump's recognition. Despite most people disagree about Donald Trump's recognition, but parts of people also agree on his recognition nevertheless. Furthermore, there are a number of reasons for people who agree and disagree with Donald Trump's recognition. It can be assumed that the listeners do not understand the message what Donald Trump utters. People get to know Donald Trump's speech only based on linguistics form, and they do not get to know the message what actually Donald Trump means. Therefore, on this occasion, the researcher attempts to introduce a broad perspective of language, which not only views language as a form rule but also as a resource for making meaning, so that people may consider on the understanding message of the speaker through this language perspective. It is called as textual metafunction.

There are three broad functions of language as metafunction generally. The first is ideational metafunction. Ideational metafunction is language provides a theory of human experience. It means that ideational metafunction uses language to represent experience. The second is interpersonal metafunction. If the ideational function of the grammar is language as reflection, this is language as action. It means that language is used to interact with other people, and the last is textual metafunction. Textual metafunction organizing the discursive flow and creating cohesion and continuity as it moves along. It means that language is organized to fit in its context (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004)

Textual metafunction is language-oriented and deals with cohesive and coherent text production by organizing and structuring the linguistic information in the clause. Textual metafunction is realized into Theme and Rheme. A simple explanation of theme in English is to think of it as the idea represented by the constituent at the starting point of the clause. It can be expressed that as the point of departure of the message. The theme, then followed by the realization of the Rheme, which can be explained as being the rest of the message (Bloor & Bloor, 1998). It can be concluded that theme always starts from the beginning of the clause then followed by rheme.

There are three terms of theme. Those are ideational theme, interpersonal theme and textual theme. The ideational theme focused on the idea or what the topic of the clause talks about. Then interpersonal refers to how language is used to interact with other people, whereas textual refers to how the message of language is constructed in words. It means that

through the organization of words, the message of the language revealed.

Based on the explanation above, in this case, it can be seen that textual metafunction is presented to give an understanding about how the message is organized through the organization of language of what Donald Trump utters. Textual metafunction is as a broad perspective of language which concerned with the organization of language for making meaning. Through this perspective, it can be seen how the speaker organised their language to achieve their purpose.

The theme is crucial to influence the readers. Theme determines the focus information of the clause. Theme can be found in articles, novel, textbook, magazine, song lyrics or speech. The topic of speech can vary it can be economic speech, education speech, or political speech. In political speech, themes are enabling found besides to affect the readers, it also shows the social power. One of speech that mostly theme to be found is the speech of Donald Trump.

Based on the explanation above, therefore the researcher aimed to analyze a political speech declared by Donald Trump and the researcher did research about the realization of textual metafunction in Donald Trump's speech. To discover this objective, the researcher considered the theory of Halliday and the clause was analyzed deeply by considering the realization of textual metafunction and it can be seen how the speaker organized their language to achieve their purposes. The objective of this research was to discover the realization of textual metafunction and to discover kinds of Mood and Theme types dominated in Donald Trump's speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital".

## II. METHODS

This research is conducted by using qualitative method and using a content analysis approach. Since the data were analyzed and described based on the content and the theory exists. In this research, the data were categorized as a written document. Source of the data were obtained from the script of Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital" which was delivered on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Washington DC. The data were downloaded from the official site of American government (<http://www.whitehouse.gov>) and also some other trusted website such as CNN media (<https://>

edition.cnn.com), and youtube website, precisely on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR3jyhIK\\_kE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR3jyhIK_kE).

To analyze the data, some steps of data analysis technique was used that proposed by Gay et al, 2012: 468); Reading/Memoing, Describing, Classifying.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### The Description of Textual Metafunction Realization in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital"

##### The Description of Theme and Rheme in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital"

Textual Metafunction is realized into Theme and Rheme. As can be explained previously Theme and Rheme were realized in Donald Trump's speech. There were 84 clauses that found in Donald Trump's speech and the Theme and Rheme occurred of each clause.

2  
Israel is a sovereign nation with the right,  
a sovereign nation with the right is Israel

From the example above, it can be seen that those clauses had different Theme (*word underlined was Theme of a clause*). In the first clause, the chosen Theme was "Israel", representing the message or information delivered by Donald Trump which means I'll tell you about Israel. It derived a pattern, Subject + Finite + Adjective Phrase. Subject preceded Finite Verbal Operation "is" in declarative form. On the other hand, in the second clause, the Theme was "a sovereign nation with the right", which means I'll tell you about a sovereign nation with right. It was as focus information that would be told to the listeners. It derived a pattern, Adjective Phrase + Finite + Noun.

##### The Description of Mood Kinds in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's Capital"

The mood is concerned with how the Subject and Finite were realized in the clause. Declarative, interrogative and imperative moods of a clause are called the mood element.

Declarative is typically used to encode a statement.

5  
Unmarked In Unmarked theme of the declarative clause, the Subject is the element that is chosen as Theme in the clause.

3  
"We will arrive at a peace and a place far greater in understanding and cooperation"  
"We" as a Subject. "We" was used by Donald Trump to indicate that he is one of part of the audience, which is means that he is along with the audience. From the explanation above, it was derived unmarked theme of declarative clause pattern: Subject + Finite.

8  
Marked In marked theme of the declarative clause, a Theme that is something other than the Subject. The most usual form of marked Theme was Adjunct/Complement/Adverb group/Prepositional phrase in the clause.

3  
"So today we call for calm, for moderation, and for the voices of tolerance to prevail over the purveyors of hate"

"so today" is the types of adverb group. Based on the explanation above, it was derived marked theme of declarative clause pattern: Adjunct/Complement/Adverb group/Prepositional phrase + Subject (preceded Finite).

7  
Interrogative The typical function of Interrogative clause is to ask a question and from the speaker's point of view asking a question is an indication that he wants to be told something. As a result of the analysis, it can be assumed that Donald Trump did not employ Interrogative form on his speech, Polarity Yes/No as well as WH-Question.

Imperative The typical function of Imperative is to command the listeners to do the action.

2  
"Let us rethink old assumptions and open our hearts and minds to possible and possibilities."

As can be seen above, "Let us" was the predicator which put first of the clause. The predicator was chosen as Theme of the clause. Hence, the purposes of the speaker to put the predicator in the first element of clause are to command the listeners to do what is said in Rheme.

To sum up, the following table was Mood kinds dominated in Donald Trump's speech.



**Table 1.**  
The Calculation of Mood Kinds in Donald Trump's speech

Mood Kinds		Total
Dec.	UnM	44
	M	38
Int.	Yes/	-
	No	-
Imp.	WH-Q	2
Total		84

Note:

Dec. : Declarative

Int. : Interrogative

Imp. : Imperative

UnM : UnMarked

M : Marked

WH-Q : WH-Question

1  
The Description of Theme Types in Donald Trump's Speech "Recognizing Jerusalem as

Israel's Capital"

Ideational/Topical, Interpersonal and Textual theme were three types of theme.

Ideational/Topical Theme

4  
Ideational/Topical theme was a theme that represents what the clause is about or the topic of the clause.

The following clause was the representative clause found in Donald Trump's speech.

**Table 2.**  
Representative Classification of Theme and Rheme

I	2 promised to look at the world's challenges with open eyes and very fresh thinking.
We	cannot solve our problems by making the same failed assumptions and repeating the same failed strategies of the past.
All challenges	demand new approaches.
Topical	
Theme	Rheme

From the example above, the clause "I", "We" and "All challenges" were indicated as a topical theme realization. Those are as Theme since Donald Trump used them as the starting point or the message what he is going to say.

region in the coming days to reaffirm our commitment to work with partners throughout the Middle East to defeat radicalism that threatens the hopes and dreams of future generations

Interpersonal Theme

Modal/Comment Adjunct

Interpersonal theme was realized into three types: Vocative, Modal/Comment Adjunct, Finite Verbal Operator.

Modal/Comment Adjunct indicated the speaker/writer's judgment on or attitude to the content of the message. The representative clause:

Vocatives

Vocatives indicated a personal name, is being used to address. The representative clause:

2  
Ever since then, Israel has made its capital in the city of Jerusalem,

Finite Verbal Operation (FVO)

2  
Vice President Pence will travel to the

As a result of the analysis, it was found

that Donald Trump was not applied Finite Verbal Operation on his speech.

#### Textual Theme

Textual theme concerned with the clause relates to its context. Textual theme was realized into constinutive, conjunction, and conjunctives adjunct.

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#### Constinutive

Constinutive is indicating a relationship to previous discourse. After doing the analysis, it was found that Constinutive was not applied in Donald Trump's speech.

#### Conjunction

Conjunction is functioning to link two clauses. The representative clause of conjunction in Donald Trump's speech can be seen below.

*"When I came into office"*

#### Conjunctives Adjunct

Conjunctive adjunct related to the clause to the preceding text. Conjunctive adjunct is realized by adverbial groups or prepositional phrases. It can be seen from the following clause.

*"Therefore, I have determined"*

In brief, the following table was Theme types dominated in Donald Trump's speech.

**Table 3.**  
The Calculation of Theme Types in Donald Trump's Speech

Theme Types	Total
Ideational/Topical	57
Interpersonal	2
Textual	25
Total	84

By considering the result and findings above, it can be explained that the previous research finding that had been done by (Wijayanto, 2013) was similar to the current researcher's finding. His finding was mostly dominated types of theme in song lyrics was Ideational/topical theme, the second was textual and the last is interpersonal. However, it was similar to the current researcher's finding in political speech. Moreover, the same research that had been done by (Firdaus, 2013), was similar to the current researcher's finding. It was found that the most types of theme used in song lyrics were Ideational/topical theme, then followed by textual theme and the last was interpersonal. The last research had been done by (Koussouhon & Mèhouénou, 2016). The finding of the analysis showed that the topical particularly unmarked theme was mostly dominated in the two extracts then the second was textual theme and the last was interpersonal. Considering about (Koussouhon & Mèhouénou, 2016) finding, it can be assumed that the result finding was similar to the current researcher. Thus, this finding contrasted with (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) that classified the mood into declarative clause (unmarked and marked theme), interrogative clause (polarity yes or no, WH-Question), imperative clause. In additional, (Halliday &

Matthiessen, 2004) also classified the theme types: topical theme, interpersonal theme (vocative, modal/comment adjunct, finite verbal operation), textual theme (constinutive, conjunction, conjunctive adjunct). However, this theory contrast with this research, where some moods found in Donald Trump's speech did not exist. There are some parts of moods that occurred in Donald Trump's speech, those are declarative clause (unmarked and marked theme) and imperative clause. Interrogative clause wasn't applied in Donald Trump's speech, polarity yes or no as well as WH-Question. Moreover, the theme types found in this research are topical theme, interpersonal theme (vocative, modal/comment adjunct), textual theme (conjunction, conjunctive adjunct).

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

Grounded by the analysis of the study, it can be concluded that based on textual metafunction perspective, the speaker attempts to get the listeners' attention to focus on the message of what is being said and giving many statements to tell the listeners his recognition that Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

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